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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Koenigsbrueck Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

11 June 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES

4

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED

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1. At 6 p.m. on 8 May 1954, JS-1 tanks [] went from the Bohra training area to Nachrichten Schule []. At 8:45 a.m. on 12 May, 5 JS-1 and JS-2 tanks [] left Nachrichten Schule for the Bohra training area. 1

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2. Unloadings observed in Koenigsbrueck between 5 and 18 May included:

5 May. At 1 p.m., M-3 armored personnel carriers [] 12 trucks, [] and 4 field kitchens at the Schwepnitz railroad station. 2

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10 May. At 2 p.m., T-34/35 tanks [] at the Koenigsbrueck-Ost railroad station. 1

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18 May. At noon, 1 T-34/76 tank and JS-1 tank [] at the Koenigsbrueck railroad station.

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3. On 15 May, the Nachrichten Schule was occupied below capacity. Tank firing practices in the training area on the Pulsnitz River were no longer observed. The artillery unit previously assumed stationed there was no longer in the installation. On 20 May, the installation also appeared less occupied than previously. No heavy weapons were observed. A board fence in the barracks yard was being dismantled. Six soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets worked on obstacles at the athletic field. Foxholes and what source believed was an emergency bridge were under construction near the athletic field. A platoon of about 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets received infantry combat training near the Pulsnitz River. 3

4. On 20 May, the south section of Neues Lager [] was occupied by about 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. An additional artillery regiment was temporarily stationed in the camp. The north section of the installation had been vacant since 28 April. The entire installation was very lightly occupied. BA-64 armored scout cars []

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[] and 6 officers with their families were seen in the barracks yard. 4

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5. On 20 May, summer camps in the Schmorkau- Schwepnitz area were occupied by advance details. The temporary buildings along the Schwepnitz-Schmorkau road were still vacant. Individual trucks were seen between these buildings and unarmed sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets were posted at the camp entrances, probably as guides. On 20 May, 12 officers with their wives were seen at an officers' club near kilometer mark 31.1, while 4 piles of ammunition were near kilometer mark 32.2. An officer and 80 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and receiving instruction on a T-34 tank were observed near kilometer mark 32.4, about 200 meters west of the road in the camp area. Jeep [] and truck [] left Bohra toward Koenigstrueck. 25X1
25X1
6. On 24 May, the Nachrichten Schule was occupied by 150 to 200 troops, small groups of whom left toward Dresden. Source did not observe their return. Civilian trucks with billeting equipment left toward Dresden on several days of observation. Source had the impression that the installation was being completely vacated. It was rumored that the troops had left for Haldensleben and that the installation was to be occupied by KVP. Between 9 and 24 May, firing was held in the Aue area on a few days only. About 30 troops were observed. Three T-34 tanks were observed in the sheds in the Aue. Source did not observe any exercises with tanks. [] between 16 and 22 May, 3 shipments, each of 13 to 25 tanks from Nachrichten Kaserne, were entrained at the Koenigstrueck railroad station, leaving toward Schwepnitz. 3 25X1
7. On 15 and 18 May, 3 and 2 T-34 tanks respectively were dispatched toward Dresden on freight trains from the Koenigstrueck railroad station. [] 25X1
25X1
8. [] since 12 May, about 24 tank shipments had been unloaded at the Koenigstrueck and Schwepnitz railroad stations at night. The average load of these shipments amounted to 900 tons. 5 25X1
9. Prior to 12 May, elements of the tank unit stationed in Neues Lager left for the cantonment west of Schmorkau. Elements of the artillery unit presumably are stationed in a summer camp near Bohra. Except for these units, the installation, on 20 May, was occupied as previously. An AAA emplacement was under construction south of Neues Lager. The emplacement was occupied by 4 guns between 14 and 20 May. On 15 May, several tanks entered the installation. On 16 May, a unit of 20 officers and 160 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and led by a lieutenant colonel marched from Neues Lager to the Schmorkau summer camp. On 19 May, 75 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia went from Neues Lager to the Schmorkau hospital and, after some time, vice versa. Trucks observed en route to and from the installation [] carried meat; [] daily hauled tank spare parts to the installation. 4 25X1
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10. On 17 May, 5 trucks towing 85-mm AT guns arrived from the direction of Dresden. [] 7 25X1

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11. In the morning on 14 May, several jet fighters were observed over the training area. Between 8:30 a.m. and noon on 20 May, a twin-engine aircraft which towed a sleeve target circled over the training area. 8

1. Comment. [redacted] the 44th Gds Tank Regt of the 11th Gds Tank Div, which has been permanently carried in Nachrichten Schule, is still stationed in the Koenigsbrueck area. See [redacted] Comment 3. 25X1
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2. Comment. [redacted] the armored personnel carriers and motor vehicles were previously reported from Borna. The unloading confirms the transfer to the Schwepnitz summer camp, Koenigsbrueck, of the 1st Gds Tank Regt of the 8th Gds Mech Div. The entraining of the unit in Borna on 3 and 4 May was confirmed by two other sources. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Another source reported the Panzer Kaserne in Borna 25X1
[redacted] to be vacant on 21 May.
3. Comment. Several reports previously indicated changes in the occupation of Nachrichten Schule. [redacted] The units of the 11th Gds Tank Div, which have been carried there, apparently left the installation on and after 26 April. The 44th Gds Tank Regt undoubtedly transferred to its summer camp near Bohra [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] The regiment is rather safely believed to continue 25X1
to be permanently stationed in Nachrichten Schule, which is also indicated by the tanks observed there. They probably were tanks in need of repair which, therefore, returned to their installation. The rumors on a transfer to Haldensleben and the tank details mentioned in paragraph 6 tend to indicate that, as usual, tank firing details of the 11th Gds Tank Div transferred to Letsling Heath. The number of entrained tanks may be exaggerated. In addition to these temporary movements, there are also indications for a permanent transfer. It cannot be determined, however, whether a permanent transfer of the 41st Tank Tng Bn and/or the 270th Gds Mort Regt actually took place.
4. Comment. A tank regiment of the 11th Gds Tank Div carried in Neues Lager apparently is stationed in the Schmorkau summer camp. Elements of the unidentified artillery brigade of the First Gds Mech Army can be carried in the summer camp near Bohra. 25X1
5. Comment. The light occupation of the summer camps can partially be accounted for by the fact that the units of the 8th Gds Mech Div (Schwepnitz area) from Grimma and Leipzig, this year, remained at their posts, from where they were rotated to the training grounds. See [redacted] Comment 6. The elements from Eilenburg and Wurzen also could not yet be determined. However, they could not be observed at their posts either. The units of the 11th Gds Tank Div which, during the preceding years, transferred from Dresden to the Schmorkau area, either remained at the posts or are stationed in the Bohra area, observation of which is very difficult. On the other hand, the camps on the Schmorkau-Schwepnitz road may be heavier occupied than assumed, since the depth of the camps cannot be observed from the road. Between 2 and 4 May, tank units, including the bulk of the 7th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 11th Gds Tank Div and a tank battalion from Meissen, moved to this area. [redacted] 25X1
Information in paragraph 8 of the present report also tends to indicate that tank units arrived in the area concerned.

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[REDACTED] 25X1

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6. [REDACTED] Comment. The tanks belong to the 21st Gds Mech Regt of the 8th Gds Mech Div from Grimma. See [REDACTED] Comment 5. 25X1
7. [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] a unit of the unidentified Arty Brig of the First Gds Mech Army. See [REDACTED] Comment 4. 25X1
8. [REDACTED] Comment. The aircraft with the sleeve target confirms the firing practices of light AAA units which were continually conducted at Koenigsbrueck. The exercises also involved AAA units of the Eighth Gds Army, which were continually rotated to their training area. 25X1

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